

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20 NIC-01 CU-05 SAM-01

DRC-01 /146 W

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R 290635Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8011
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS CAIRO 5597

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG IZ

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS

1. AHRAM JULY 26 HAS LONG, INTERESTING ARTICLE ON GOI-GOE RELATIONS, THE FIRST POSITIVE PRESS COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN MANY MONTHS. ADMITTING THERE ARE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT, WRITER ASKS: "WHY DON'T WE START A DIALOGUE? IF WE DO NOT AGREE, THEN WE CAN COORDINATE STANDS." THIS, HE CONTINUES, WAS ASHRAF MARWAY'S MISSION. FURTHER, HE SAYS, SINCE VISIT OF GOE DEL TO JULY 14 CELEBRATIONS, BA'ATH VIEWS HAVE CHANGED. GOI NOW APPROVES GOE POLICY OF "STAGES" AND AFFIRMS DIFFERENCES ARE ONLY "LIMITED TO INITIATIVES, NOT STRATEGY".

2. ARTICLE CONTINUES: "IMPORTANCE OF DIRECT DIALOGUE IS NOW UNDERSTOOD," AND GOE MINISTERIAL DEL WILL VISIT BAGHDAD SOON. BA'ATH HAS BEEN INVITED TO SEND A DEL TO CAIRO AND GOI MAY ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT AFTER FIVE YEARS ABSENCE, WRITER ADDS. HE NOTES ALSO "ABSENCE OF DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN" IN LAST FEW DAYS AND DECISION TO ALLOW ALL EGYPTIAN PAPERS TO ENTER IRAQ.

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3. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "CONTACTS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR RESUMPTION

OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND WASHINGTON "AND THERE IS MUCH AMERICAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN IRAQ.

4. ARTICLE ENDS WITH COMMENT THAT GOE IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH EGYPT; SADDAM OPENLY SAID "EGYPT WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY WHERE IRAQI INVESTMENTS ABROAD ARE CONCERNED..."
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